

See if you can recognize these Teacher Mystries!

Page 5

Outstanding Senior Athletes
Senior Sabres gain recognition from their peers...

Page 10-11

2000 and beyond! You know its coming but what will it bring?

Page 4

The final face off:
Boys vs. girls...

Pages 6-7

December 8, 1999

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, NC 28210

Volume XXVI

THE SABRES' BLADE

Sabres Show Their Pride!



Julia Flumian/staff photographer

Top right: Mike Mitchell dances at the pep rally. Top left: The rock shows Sabre Pride. Bottom left: Kendra Rau is stunning at the homecoming parade. Bottom center: Dana Howie hugs last years homecoming queen Rhonda Gray. Bottom right: Sabre cheerleaders are all smiles.

By Cat Traphagan
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the 1999 athletic season came to a close, the Sabre student body roared with pride. The fall pep rally proved to be one of the best, with guest appearances from well-known stars, including the Village People. Later at the homecoming parade our new homecoming queen, Dana Howie and first runner up, Kendra Rau, flashed

their dazzling smiles at their adoring fans.

The Sabre students have shown their spirit in other ways this year. South Meck's clubs have participated in fundraisers for their own benefit, such as Key Club's car wash or the French Honor Society's Advent calendars. But these clubs have also left their pawprints around the community. Civitan helped out with Special Olympic, Beta Club donated to Tools for

Schools, and many clubs took part in Kids' Voting. To show off their spirit and talent, National Art Honor Society painted a mural at the Charlotte Rapture Center.

South clubs have also gained recognition and awards as a result of their Sabre pride. Marching Band won Grand Champion at Appalachian State University, Chorus sang at the Winter Garden, Debate won Sweepstakes, and the Law Club

won Mock Trial Regional.

These club events are not the only way that Sabres have shown their spirit. Many Students dressed up for Spirit Week, while others painted their faces for the football games.

With so many ways that Sabres are showing their spirit, *The Sabres' Blade* thought it was high time to pay tribute to their efforts. After all, why shouldn't South Meck students flaunt their pride? We have Dr. Knox,

Ms. Prichett and all the other wonderful faculty. We also have a great student body. Keep up the Sabre Pride!

Index

Editorials.....	2
Teacher Spotlight.....	3
Features.....	4
Student Forum.....	5
Centerspread.....	6
A and E.....	7
Faces in the Crowd.....	8
Sports.....	9
Teacher Mystries.....	10

School Reassignment Plan Throws Charlotte into Disarray

Moving students is unfair to them and will destroy diversity in the area

By Jennifer Samuels

CENTERSPREAD EDITOR

Once upon a time, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district was segregated. The city was completely divided along racial lines. However, the Supreme Court case *Shaw vs. Reno* changed everything by mandating that students of different economic backgrounds be bused to schools not in their area. The goal of this ruling was to increase the diversity and acceptance within the school district. For 30-odd years, it has worked.

Unfortunately, as a result of a recent court case, the successful integration of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district has vanished into thin air. A family that was upset over their child being denied a spot in a magnet program sued the school district and won. Their victory? Race would no longer be used as a deciding factor in school assignments. There would be no more busing, no more attending schools abnormally far from one's home, and, most upset-

ting, no more diversity. Of course, the family has since left, leaving a mess in their wake.

Recently, when Dr. Eric Smith unveiled the new, court-mandated plan for school reassignments, many people in Charlotte were enraged. The plan forces a system of "neighborhood" schools and "zones". All students will be guaranteed a seat in a school near their home, Smith triumphantly proclaimed. However, some of the assignments are absolutely preposterous. For a good example, look at the Huntingtowne Farms and Quail Hollow Estates neighborhoods. Both of these areas are located within 10 minutes of South Meck. One would think that their neighborhood school would be South Meck. However, the school board's plan delivered a huge blow to these neighborhoods by assigning them to Olympic High School, a place that is much further than South. By assigning students to schools that are not actually the closest place to them, the school system is doing more damage than

good. They are ripping apart the communities that they so desperately want to preserve. While a person's church, community sports teams, and neighborhood friends may be in one place, the children in these neighborhoods will be forced to go to a completely different area in the name of "proximity".

However, perhaps the most upsetting part of the new school assignment proposal is the racial situation it creates. By dividing the city into districts by neighborhood, certain schools located in certain areas will have a disproportionate amount of students who fall under a specific economic label. It is a fact that there are more low-income families located in the uptown area. Along the same lines, the vast majority of rich people live in South Charlotte. Now, instead of being sent to different places to make a school full of people from diverse backgrounds, most schools will have one type of person. This is unfair to the students. By not being exposed to different types of people, all the work that has been done to-

wards gaining tolerance is erased. Schools like West Charlotte will be predominately black and low-income, while South Meck is expected to become over 90% white. There is something wrong when one type of student dominates a school. By not exposing students to conditions that they will encounter in the real world, the schools are not successfully executing their goal of preparation.

It is important to remember that the changes I have mentioned are only a proposal right now. The final plan will not be voted on until the middle of December. The only way to get a change is to get involved. Write the school board members, attend city council meetings - make your voice heard. By creating a system of neighborhood schools, all of the diversity is being erased from Charlotte. The city is slowly becoming segregated on the educational level. After working so hard to eliminate these conditions, why would anyone want them to come back?

News and Views

School Board Decisions

School Reassignment Plan shakes up Charlotte

Superintendent Eric Smith says it will be difficult to allow thousands of Charlotte-Mecklenburg students to remain in their current schools next fall, even though dozens of students at a public hearing Monday night pleaded with the school board to grandfather as many of them as possible.

In a closed session before the hearing, the school board voted to appeal a judge's order that denied it an extra year to assign freshmen.

Thousands of students and parents have packed local high schools this week to discuss the reassignment plan proposed by Smith for next fall. Many have made emotional pleas to the school board, asking that it exempt certain students from reassignment by allowing them to remain in their current schools or magnet programs next year.

By Jennifer Wing Rothacker
and Celeste Smith
The Charlotte Observer

Escort Policy: Safety or Prison ?

By Larisa Yasinovskaya

STAFF REPORTER

- "Well, is it an emergency?"
- "No, but I really need to!"
- "I'm sorry, but there's nothing I can do, I cannot let you out of class, it's the CMS policy."

Sound familiar? This has become a regular scenario across CMS schools due to the escort policy. Of course the students have formed many opinions, most of which agree that the

policy is not very effective. Some students have even gone so far as to label the policy everything from "Total Lockdown" to the "Gestapo", but is that really fair? After all, the school system is just looking out for the students' safety.

It is not surprising that schools across the country are weary of potential danger because of the recent Columbine shootings. They figure it is better to be too safe than sorry, and most of the parents agree. Thus, the schools are only trying to create a safe learning environment and appease the

parents' appetite for some solution.

Or are they? One has to wonder if the school system realizes that the escort policy is not necessarily the best solution, and that maybe the only reason the school insists on it is to avoid liability. If something were to happen, they could always say that at least they tried. Then another question arises: are they really trying?

Does the system not realize that the escort policy is a rather superficial attempt to deter violence and minimize danger? Are the ROTC students really going to protect or prevent another student from committing a crime? Realize that South and most other schools in CMS are open campuses, which means that if someone wanted to get in and do something to harm the students they would do it between classes, or not go to class at all.

So, escort policy, good safety measure or superficial "solution"? The administration thinks it's a good idea. The students only see that it prevents them from using the restroom. You be the judge, but give it a chance. If you're a student just remember that this is done in good intention. If you're an administrator or teacher realize that South has 90 minute periods with 6 minute breaks in between, making the restroom situation very difficult. The solution is for everyone to work together and compromise, and maybe then the policy will work to the best benefit of everyone.

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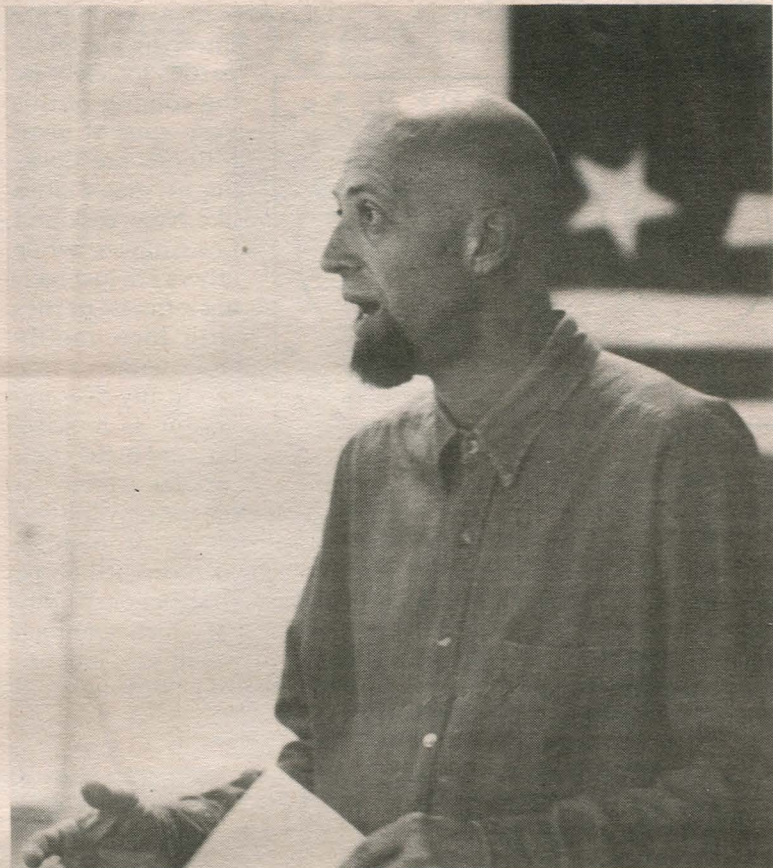
Teacher Spotlight

Mr. Fowler: Wild, Wacky, and Well-liked

By Lindsay Buchert
STAFF REPORTER

When Mr. Fowler was a high school student himself, he and his friends would attend a county fair in South Carolina. Every year, they would visit the gorilla exhibit. This exhibit was of special interest because it featured "Rex," a gorilla housed in a 12x24 foot cage, which was brought in on the back of a flat bed truck. For \$5 a person could enter the cage with Rex, and if he could remain in the cage for three minutes, he was rewarded with \$50. However, Rex, wearing a muzzle so as not to bite the brave ones who entered, would swing from the bars on the top of the cage and kick them in the stomach. Of course this was entertaining to those outside the cage.

Mr. Fowler, confident in his athleticism (after all, he was on his school's football team), decided to take on Rex. His reasoning behind the madness, was that someone had recently broken the door of his new car. Angered by this, he decided to enter the cage. As luck would have it, Mr. Fowler and his friends could only scrape together \$3.80, so spectators were more than happy to pitch in the rest of the money just to see this high school kid take on a gorilla. Since he had already seen the way the gorilla fought with others, he decided to fight hand-to-hand with Rex. He delivered a blow to Rex's muzzle so hard that "its relatives still hurt" and,



Julia Flumian/Staff Photographer

Students like Mr. Fowler for his unique teaching style...sprinkled with a few funny stories here and there.

Unfortunately, Mr. Fowler's arm continues to hurt. Too bad Rex quickly recovered and pinned Mr. Fowler in the corner of the cage, leaving still one minute until he could collect his prize money. Determined to beat Rex, he went in search of his six foot six, 320 pound offensive tackle who then entered Rex's cage and proceeded to beat the gorilla over the head until all his owner could do was pay the boys so they wouldn't hurt Rex

anymore.

This is the type of story that can be heard from Mr. Fowler's trailer. As an E/L/P teacher, he captivates his students with both his stories and political information. As a teacher for 11 years, seven of which have been at South Meck, he has also taught world history and geography. He hopes his students are not only learning social studies, but also life lessons. He originally began teaching to re-

ceive a coaching position at a high school. He now takes his teaching profession more seriously than he did when he first began. He especially enjoys teaching high school because of the knowledge his students gain, not to mention what he himself gains from his students. He likes to tell his students that they will be forced to pay their way through life after high school. He explains this by telling them that while in grades kindergarten through twelve, the teachers and administrators really do care about you and where you are, while in college and life, they will not care whether you are present or not.

Born in Tabor City (also called Razor City), in eastern North Carolina near the South Carolina border, Mr. Fowler played football and basketball in high school. He received scholarships to the Air Force Academy and other division one schools, but chose not to accept them. He took some classes at Wake Forest University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his degree from Francis-Marion University in Florence, South Carolina, where he majored in political science and minored in history and art. He went on to do graduate work at Francis-

Marion and UNC-Charlotte. He was invited to be part of Campbell University's first law school class, but after thinking about it, declined.

Besides teaching, Mr. Fowler holds jobs at a private club and for the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte Hornets. He is also involved in politics, which he attributes to his father, who was the youngest mayor ever elected to office in the state of North Carolina. He wishes more people would become more involved in local politics. The reason being "it takes less time for

"Don't count your chickens before they cross the road."

the money to get from the citizens' pockets to Sec-

ond Street uptown than it does to reach Raleigh or Washington DC."

Also famous for his colorful classroom, which is decorated with campaign signs and posters, Mr. Fowler picks up all of his political signs after the elections are over. Students collect them or he picks up the ones that are laying on the ground.

Finally, he wants everyone to know they should "set goals and set the right path to obtain those goals" and to "not count your chickens before they cross the road." Or, in other words, you shouldn't count on what you don't have.

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Answers to Teacher Mysteries:
Mrs. Toliver and Mr. Spencer

Countdown to the Millennium

Obligatory Millennium Article

In accordance with the approaching Millennium we thought it would be appropriate to ask some of the student body: Where do you see yourself or the world 25 years into the Millennium?

"In the future, I see myself as a successful businessman enjoying every last bit of life."

Rich Withrow
Grade 11

"I see myself writing software for my own company and traveling in my spare time."

William White
Grade 11

"I see myself married to a smart and handsome guy working part-time at a Pharmacy and taking care of a big house and a dog on the lake."

Mayuri Viroja
Grade 12

"I see myself married and being a housewife and spending all my husband's money. The world is going to be the same but probably more polluted."

Mindi Goguen
Grade 9

"Twenty-five years into the Millennium I see myself being a well-known person around Charlotte and throughout the US. Also I would be very educated and intellectual."

Lisa Long
Grade 10

"I think the world will be practically controlled by computers. The growth in technology has been extremely significant over the past 25 years, and I think the world will continue to change as much, if not more, over the next 25."

Jason Meter
Grade 10

"In my opinion the world and technology will be far more advanced twenty-five years into the Millennium. Computers will probably be in control of all

By Larisa Yasinovskaya
BUSINESS MANAGER

It has been talked about for hundreds of years. Some have prepared for it for several decades. Prince even wrote a song for it 1982. Now it's finally here: the year 2000. We are lucky because we get to live through not only a turn of the century, but a turn of the Millennium. We get to experience the coming of the next thousand years in the history of the world, and talk about it for at least the next hundred years.

Well, the Millennium is just about here; so now what? Many people are preparing for the supposed Y2K computer crisis.

They are digging basements and shelters for the possibility of an accidental nuclear launch, while others are stalking up on food

rival of our space neighbors (aliens), while others will expect the return of God.

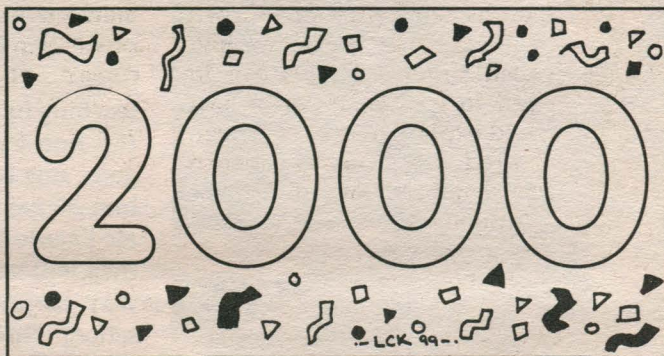
Of course many people are throwing elaborate parties to celebrate the coming of this very special year. Millions are flocking to major cities like New York and Los Angeles, while others are just having intimate parties with their family and friends.

In any case, everyone is looking forward to the coming

of the new year. All are excited about what the new Millennium will bring; astonishing technological innovations or cataclysmic destruction? Only time will tell, of which not much is left, so we will just have to wait and see what the future will bring.

and toilet paper in case all currency is obsolete.

Others are taking this opportunity to start or join end-of-the-world cults. Many cults are expected to spring up around the turn of the Millennium with the doomsday message. Many of them will likely await the ar-



MILLENNIUM FUN FACTS AND IDEAS

* Check out the Millennium Photo Quilt that Kodak is putting together, it is a portrait through time to which people add pictures that reflect their time and life.

* If you have a couple extra thousand lying around check out EXPO 2000, the world fair in Hannover, Germany. It will feature "Mankind, Nature and Technology".

* If you plan to celebrate in Times Square keep in mind that over 2 million people are expected to be there, but it promises to be worth it because this year giant TV screens will be strategically placed throughout the square that will display people and their cultures throughout the world.

* To celebrate the year 2000 you can send up a balloon along with the citizens of the Earth.

* You could participate in Drumming in the Year 2000 and drum in unison with people around the world for the final hours of 1999.

* You can register to have one of the last seconds of 1999 or the first seconds of the new Millennium named after you. (check out everything2000.com)

* If you're in the mood for some humor check out duh-2000.com for the stupidest things said about Y2K.

** All of these and many other ideas can be found on the web @ everything2000.com.

Compiled by Larisa Yasinovskaya

(opinion question)

our lives. People probably will not be as smart since they will rely on their personal computers for all knowledge. The world will be completely different 25 years after the year 2000."

Krista Strother
Grade 10

"I think that there would be labor saving devices everywhere and computers would be the main source of communications. I see myself 25 years into the Millennium married with kids."

Kemry Kim
Grade 10

"In 25 years I see myself living in New York, married with two children and owning my own salon. Computers and technology will change a lot."

Sharika Dulin
Grade 9

"Hmmm, 25 years, well...the world and technology will be really advanced - in fact, everything will probably be ran by a coffee-bean sized computer chip. And I will probably be sitting on the beach, playing my guitar with my hot wife!"

Mike Mitchell
Grade 12

"I think that the world will still be in the process of rebuilding after the Y2K crisis. The world will revert back to the basics; growing their own food, living in small family units, and simple trade. We will have no technology, and will have to go back to dealing with people the old-fashioned way, by talking.

John Ray
Grade 11

"In the new millenium the computers will control the world. The way things are going now, I think the computers will take over, they will be using us, instead of us using them. The Y2K is just the beginning.

Khufu Rosas
Grade 11

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Senior Mysteries



By Dustin Joyce
GRAPHICS EDITOR

This senior mystery is known for the friendly and kind manner in which he treats all those with whom he comes in contact. He is also well known for his leadership skills, which he exercises in his position of treasurer of NAACP. He is also involved in DECA, gospel choir, and debate, where he is an award-winning dramatic interpreter. Next year, he plans to continue his studies at Morehouse University in Atlanta, where he will major in pre-law. Outside of school, he is an active member of his church, he volunteers frequently for Habitat for Humanity, and he is a customer service representative at the Harris Tee-ter at Quail Corners. If you don't know by now his slogan is, "4U2NV." Have you figured out who it is yet? If not, look on page 5 for the answer.



By Cat Traphagan
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This Sabre letter girl can be seen pumping Backstreet Boys and Dixie Chicks in her navy blue Acura Legend. When she's not singing along with her favorite tunes you can find her with the youth group at Sharon United Methodist Church or playing with her dog, Mickey. You might be able to catch a glimpse of her as she hosts Young Life. She can be seen supporting the Sabre lacrosse team or doing service projects with the Interkeys. This senior loves the beach and plans to spend New Year partying with her friends. Any guesses? Here's a give away: This senior Sabre is vice president of National Honor Society. If you still don't have a clue check page 5 for the answers.

poetry corner

Untitled By Matt Morse

once I had a teammate
a teammate that ran long and strong
a teammate who ran smart and with his heart
a teammate who stood tall and would take a fall for his team
he is no longer a teammate but a fan,
a fan watching from above
but he will not be forgotten
cuz he was loved

now we run long and strong for him
and now we run smart and with a heart and love for him
now we stand tall for him

I once had a teammate
a teammate that ran long and strong
a teammate who ran smart and with his heart
a teammate who stood tall and would take a fall for his team
he is no longer a teammate but a fan,
a fan watching from above
but he will not be forgotten
cuz he was loved
I once had a teammate named Ben.

The True You By Dustin Joyce

In the light
Cast down by the street lamp
I see your shadow.
It scares me.
That is why
I am glad

That I know
The true you.

Compiled by Neil
Smith

Answers to Senior Mysteries:
Neely Redfern and Chris Moore

Student Forum

New student has a difficult transition to South

Dear *The Sabres' Blade*,

I am a new student to South Meck and I am also new to Charlotte. I moved here only four months ago from a small town in lower-state South Carolina called Summerville. I was in need to write this letter so I could express how I have been treated thus far in South Mecklenburg High School.

In Summerville, everyone was nice to everyone, and everyone was treated with the respect that we are all entitled to as human beings. It was the hardest thing in the world for me to move from the town, friends, popularity, and boyfriend that I so dearly loved, but I had no choice; I had to move.

It was a long journey, but my family and I finally got here and got settled into a house that downsized about two times compared to my old house, and I did not like it. I was completely miserable. Moving to a big city from a small town is extremely hard, and not many people seem to understand why I am taking this so hard. Once I got into school, I became even more depressed than I already

was, because I had no friends here at all. It all seems so easy to make friends until you start from scratch all over again. I half expected people to be nice to me seeing as though I was the "new girl" and some people knew how it felt - I was wrong. People never even acknowledged my existence! They gave me crude and dirty looks, and no one ever spoke a word to me! You can't understand how much this hurts until it happens to you. With all of the problems occurring at my house on top of this, I became more and more depressed. I cried every single day after school, and I sometimes even during class. No one would give me even just one chance, and that was all that I wanted.

After a month or so of this emotion torture, my thoughts came to running away from home and dropping out of school. Around this time I was assigned to a group of people to do a play with in my honors drama class. The first few days were the same as always, but then, they all gave me a chance! They talked to me, we sat and shared stories about our lives, we exchanged heartaches over

boyfriends, and we became friends! I soon dismissed the thoughts of running away and dropping out of school from my head, and I owe it all to these three wonderful people, Cat Traphagan, Julia Flumian, and Denise Huntley. Thank you so much!

I got a few other friends after that in my creative writing class, because after I had earned these three friends, my self esteem went up, and I finally had a little confidence! In my other classes people are still quite rude to me, but I don't really care anymore. If they won't give me a chance then that is a friendship that they will miss out on. But, I ask why would anyone want to miss out on making a friend?

To say what I really should say, is a lesson that all of us should adhere to. You can't judge a person from the outside, because you don't know their life inside. You never know what has happened to a person until you give them a chance to tell you. Think about it.

Your friend,

Jiff

The traffic and parking situation is ridiculous

Dear *The Sabres' Blade*,

I am writing to your fine publication to address a very important issue that upperclassmen are faced with every morning. The traffic and parking lot situation has reached a new level of ridiculousness. I now feel the need to point out these problems.

Before I begin, let it be known that I travel to school from the Gleneagles side of Park Road. I am sure that those students coming from Highway 51 have a whole different set of problems.

The problems I face really do not appear until the intersection of Gleneagles and Park Road. The left turn light needs to be longer because people take the liberty of a four-second delay before beginning their turn.

The drive does not get really intense until I get close to the school. As everyone knows, there is a choice of two lanes on Park Road for getting into the school, the right lane (for turning into the first entrance) and

the center lane (for turning in at the stop light). That is at least how the understood system is supposed to work. Constantly, however, crazy students and parents throw rock into the meat grinder with their actions.

Some people, mostly parents, feel the need to drop their kids off in strange places because they are too impatient to wait in line. Just the other day I saw two kids get dropped off simultaneously in the middle of Prk Road. After all the safety measures I can not believe parents would have the nerve to drop their kids off in the middle of Park Road.

This means that parents then have to dodge cars turning in at the intersection to return to the flow of traffic.

You also have the students who drive all the way to the school in the center lane and then force their car into the right lane as they reach the school. As they wait to be let in, they block cars from entering at the intersection via the center lane. Lets face it, you are skipping all those

people who have patiently waited. Now I admit I have snuck in a few times, but have caused no problems because I do not hold up traffic in doing so. I hate driving around people who are just sitting there with their blinker on. JUST PICK A LANE AND WAIT YOUR TURN!

Then, once you are in the parking lot, the wait is not over. Once again it all comes back to impatient parents. It seems like most parents can not follow the set flow of traffic. They are criss-crossing all over the lot trying to beat the system. All they do is make us wait longer. Coach Davis tries to help, but the problem is too big.

I do not know how we can eliminate the frustrations associated with driving to school with out completely restructuring the parking lot. For the time being all we can do is be considerate of other drivers.

Frustrated Senior,

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Men Rule the World... (and the Couch)

By Chris Austin
and Neil Smith
STAFF REPORTERS

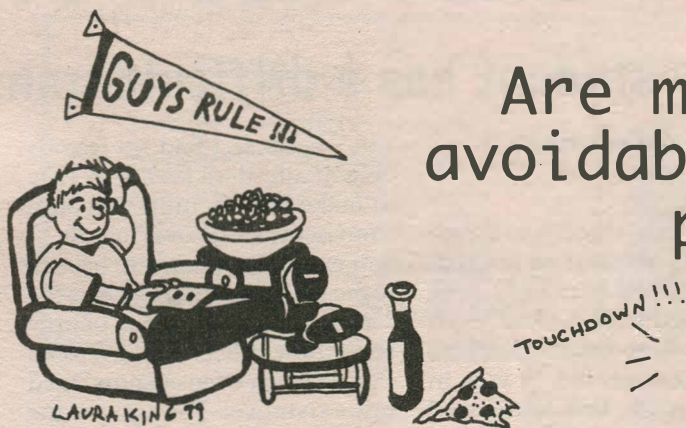
What in the world could be better than being a guy? Maybe being a guy with a really big truck. The bottom line is nothing can beat being a guy. We stand at the top of the food chain, yet we still find time for the simple yet beautiful things, like hats.

It's a great thing to be a guy. We don't need to make plans for the future. We just go where the road takes us, and the road usually leads to Hooters. There's no need to pick out our clothes five days before we need to wear them; it takes just five minutes. Even though we don't always enjoy the fact that girls take hours to get ready, we can always appreciate the finished product.

There are many unwritten laws of guy-hood, but one that every guy holds dear to them is the law of seat "snaking." If a guy gets up to nail some snacks and what not, another guy has free reign of his open seat. Now, if the guy decides to "snake" the snack searcher's open seat, then he is opening himself up to a test of wills. For example, when the absent guy returns, he is allowed to hit the seat "snaker" repeatedly on the arm until he decides to get up. If the seat "snaker" fights back and uses the "you didn't call five's" technique then he will probably retain the seat that he has successfully "snaked."

All men are stubborn and we love it. We don't ask for directions, we're never wrong, and we don't lose! We don't watch our weight - we watch football. We can eat the fattest, thickest, meatiest steak and then pick up a bag of chips and watch monster truck racing on TNN. That's just the simple joy of being a guy. We don't worry about the little things.

Even though most men fall into these categories, some men have been lost or "whipped." Don't get us wrong, we love our girlfriends. They're a great thing, but when they relentlessly toy with your buddy's mind and use up his manliness, it just doesn't fly. So on that note, let all men stand tall, be proud, and salute, because we are men.



Two Hot

By Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

Christina Aguilera



Teen People Magazine

Britney Spears



Jump Magazine

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

An informal poll taken recently of South Meck males found that

63% like Christina

37% prefer Britney

These princesses with pipes have been dividing the loyalty of pop fans everywhere with their music. Although their styles are similar, they each have a unique flair. Britney is known for her teen-pop hits like "Baby One More Time" and "Sometimes," while Christina gears her songs, "Genie In A Bottle" and "So Emotional", less toward seven year olds than Britney. It's obvious there are definite views on their music, but what about their appearances?

BOYS WILL BE BOYS



Guest Photographer

At the 1999 Homecoming Game, the Key Club and other South Meck males get rowdy and show their Sabre spirit

The Battle of

Are men and women truly equal
avoidable differences between
presents compelling evid

Men and Women Gain

Discrepancies still evident in

By Jennifer Samuels
CENTERSPREAD EDITOR

It is an issue that has been debated since the beginning of time. The controversy over whether males or females are the dominant sex is enough to provoke heated arguments between any group of people. There are compelling arguments on both sides of the story, and this article is not an attempt to declare one side the winner. Rather, it is designed to present facts about the issue in an unbiased format. You be the judge: are men and women equal, or does one get preferential treatment over the other?

Recently, there has been much debate over whether girls suffer in classes that boys are typically considered better at, such as math and science. Evidence for this argument can be seen by analyzing SAT scores for both genders. With some exceptions, males tend to score better on the math section and poorer on the English. Girls, however, tend to have higher scores in English. In fact, girls and math has been a touchy issue for quite

awhile. Some schools have gone so far as to provide the option of separate-sex math classes for females. The results have been positive; many of these girls say that they feel more comfortable in such classes and are less afraid to speak up. However, classes such as these bring up certain issues: are boys being shortchanged in the long run? According to an article that ran in *The New York Times* on December 12, 1998, boys are more likely to repeat a grade, drop out, be put in special education classes, be diagnosed with learning disabilities, and commit suicide. It is obvious that boys need just as much attention as girls. According to Arthur Levine, president of Columbia University's Teachers College, a "middle road" should be taken, one that stresses the unique problems that both genders encounter.

Unfortunately, the educational discrepancies do not end when students begin college. In 1996 it was reported that there

Numbers

By Dustin Joyce
GRAPICS EDITOR

Examine the following in
yourself: are men

Life Expectancy in 1997:

Men - 73.6 years

Women - 79.2 years

Suicides in 1996:

Men - 24,998

Women - 5,905

Median Age at First Marriage in 1997:

Men - 26.8 years

Women - 25.0 years

Percent that Smokes:

Men - 31.2%

Women - 28.2%

Involvement in Fatal Moter Vehicle Crashes for 1997:

Men - 43,600

Women - 16,100

Number of People Ar- rested in 1996:

Men - 9,475,344

Women - 2,290,420

Information provided by
(1996) and *World Book*

the Sexes

or will there always be un-
the genders? The Sabres' Blade
ence. You be the judge!

ing Equality in Society education and the workforce

were 8.4 million women en-
rolled in college, but only 6.7
million men. The ratio of fe-
males to males at many top
schools, including UNC-Chapel
Hill, has risen in recent years to
a fairly steady 60:40 ratio. Mem-
bers of the administration at
these schools have expressed
concern over the increasing
number of women. On the
other hand, though, the enroll-
ment of women at tech schools,
including Georgia Tech and Vir-
ginia Tech, is still not very large.
However, at most large research
universities the ratio of females
to males remains constant. It is
at liberal arts schools, smaller
universities or colleges that
stress classes in all disciplines
and that tend to have a less sci-
ence-oriented curriculum,
where the lack of males is most
strongly felt. "There may be a
bias against the liberal arts,"
Catharine Stimpson, the dean of
the Graduate School of Arts and
Sciences at New York Univer-
sity, said in a recent *New York
Times* article. "There is a feeling

that 'real' men don't speak
French, that in the 20th century
these are women's topics and
men do economics and engi-
neering".

However, the gap seems to
be closing between men and
women in the workforce. Men
and women make similar sala-
ries in many jobs. Additionally,
women are beginning to infil-
trate typically-male fields such
as engineering more often. Tra-
ditional women's work, such as
staying at home and raising a
family, has also become the ca-
reer of choice of more and more
men. However, the failure of the
Equal Rights Amendment en-
sured that men and women will
never truly be equal, at least in
the eyes of the law.

As the United States moves
into the new millennium, more
and more opportunities will
arise for both men and women.
The future for both genders
looks promising. However, the
question still remains: is one sex
better than the other? You be the
judge.



Women Rule the World...(and Men)

By Larisa Yasinovskaya
BUSINESS MANAGER

A popular saying states that
"behind every great man is a
great woman". Well, I say that
there are no great men; an old-
fashioned society simply gives
men credit for is really accom-
plished by women. One might
say that women take care of the
kids, keep up the house, cook
dinner, and still have to look
good in a society
where they are
judged by their
appearance. Men just have
one issue: how
can I get a car/
truck big
enough to com-
pensate for my
shortcomings?

Guys also
make the argu-
ment that
women take too
long to get
ready, and that
we plan. Our
objective is to
look for guys
(for which they
should be appre-
ciative) and we
plan in order to
prevent our-
selves from bum-
bling around in
life, again quite a reasonable be-
havior. But a modern man, too,
takes at least 10-15 minutes to do
his hair (about the time a
woman takes,) and he plans as
well, a skill he learned from
women.

Of course, there are still in-
disputable differences between
the two sexes. For instance, take
driving. Women drive to get
from point A to point B; men, on
the other hand, tend to think
that they are on a racetrack or
that they are racing against time
itself, which explains why car
and life insurance is higher for
men. Making decisions is an-
other example. Men say that we
take too long to make up our
mind, which is sometimes true,
but it is because we take the time
to analyze, as opposed to mak-
ing a stupid decision and hav-
ing to deal with the conse-
quences later.

However, the true reason
why women are superior is that
we can get anything from any-
one at anytime. We have the co-
ercive and persuasive skills that
men can only dream of. Our
ability to attain what we want
far supersede those of men. I'm
not saying that men are bad,
they're great. I'll even admit that
we need them - to carry our lug-
gage and fix our cars that is. It's
not that we can't do those things
ourselves, we just don't want to.
But hey, I'm not bitter, I'm just
honest.

W
O
M
E
N

Double Trouble

By Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

Matt Damon

Ben Affleck



Teen Magazine



Teen Magazine

Best Friends Face Off

A recent survey of South Meck females discovered the
following:

54% go gaga for Matt

46% think Ben's the best

The eternal question has been posed: Who is hotter, Matt
or Ben? Matt has his pretty boy blonde hair and well-groomed
smile, while Ben and his uncombed brown locks show off a
charming sideways grin. Is it the fact that they are best friends
that makes them even cuter, or is it that they are Oscar-win-
ning screenwriters? Whatever it is that makes these two so
endearingly handsome, we hope they keep it up!

Don't Lie...

formation and decide for
and women equal?

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

Number of Licensed Drivers in 1997:

Men - 91,400,000

Women - 90,300,000

Percentage of Miles Driven in 1997:

Men - 63%

Women - 37%

Accident Rates per 10,000,000 Miles Driven in 1997:

Men - 90

Women - 103

Number who are Physi- cians:

Men - 590,011

Women - 166,699

Not Covered by Health Insurance:

Men - 23,130

Women - 20,319

Information Please Almanac
Almanac 1999



Julia Friedman Staff Photographer

(from left) Jennifer Zuerner, Andrea DeLeo, and Shikary Fadel of the South
Meck cheerleading squad show their stuff at the Fall 1999 Pep Rally

The Sabres Blade wants to feature South's musicians. If you play in a band and would like to be featured, please submit your name to Ms. Holm in B-2. Thank you!

Top 5 Albums

1. "Breathe"--Faith Hill
2. "Rainbow"--Mariah Carey
3. "Supernatural"--Santana
4. "The Battles of Los Angeles"--Rage Against the Machine
5. "Millenium"--Backstreet Boys



Top 5 Movies

1. "Pokemon: The First Movie"
2. "The Bone Collector"
3. "Dogma"
4. "The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc"
5. "Anywhere But Here"



--information compliments of The Charlotte Observer

Hot Spot Feature: The Perch

1500 Central Avenue
372-7724

By Laura King
STAFF ARTIST

This issue's featured hot spot is a club housed on the second floor of a building located on the corner of Central Avenue and Pecan Road. The Perch is a comedy club whose cast performs live sketches that emulate the style and traditions of the popular show Saturday Night Live.

The club's sketches are brief, but effective. Of the fifteen or so performed in a single program, few if any will fail to draw considerable laughter from the audience. The Perch evaluates its humor factor from sketch to sketch. Upon their arrival, patrons are given a program listing all the night's sketches, as well as a crayon. They are asked to circle those sketches which they find especially enjoyable throughout the night. The frequent favorites are repeated in the future, eventually becoming "classics."

The Perch's unique atmosphere serves to add to the experience. The club is somewhat small, seating approximately 60 people on couches and chairs scattered all over the room. A tiny kitchen, which serves as the cast's dressing room during the show, serves coffee and desserts prior to the start of the first

sketch. No alcohol is served, and the early show is non-smoking.

Each program is performed for four nights, on Friday and Saturday for two consecutive weekends. The early show begins at 9:00 and is extremely popular (although the cast claims that the 11:00 show "makes up" for the early program). The Perch also takes their show on the road occasionally, most often to colleges and universities (there was a performance at Appalachian State University on November 11). Because of the club's popularity and small capacity, reservations are strongly recommended and can be made up to 15 minutes prior to the show.

As for technicalities, The Perch does not have that many. However, you must be 17 to attend without an adult. In addition, the material presented in the sketches is rated R for content. Otherwise, their only requirement is that you have fun. The price of admission is eight dollars per person for a show that lasts a little over an hour. This may sound steep, but the talented cast gives a performance well worth the cost of the ticket.



A Doll's House: Beautifully Presented by Somedra

By Lindsay Buchert
STAFF REPORTER

The South Meck drama department, Somedra, presented *A Doll's House* in the auditorium in November. The play was originally written by Henrik Ibsen and adapted by Frank McGuinness.

As the play opens, the audience is introduced to Nora, played by Cat Traphagan. Torvold, played by Sean Sears, will be receiving a high promotion to manager of the local bank soon. Mr. Krogstad, played by John Robertson, works at the bank and will soon be out of a job since Torvold has been hired as the manager. Previously, however, Nora had borrowed money from Krogstad to fund a trip to southern Italy for Torvold to recuperate from an illness, as prescribed by Dr. Rank, played by Jason Reynolds. Krogstad drew up a contract that was to be signed by both Nora and her father. Not wanting her father to know she was borrowing money, Nora forged her father's signature, dating it two days after her death. Forgery, at the time, was punishable by imprisonment. Krogstad, wanting his job back, threatens to release the information of the contract to both the press and Torvold if he is not reinstated to his position at the bank.

Meanwhile, Nora's childhood friend Christine, played by Rebecca Costas, has just returned to her hometown in search of a bookkeeping job after the death of her husband. Knowing that Torvold has just been promoted, she asks for a job for him. However, the position is the job that used to belong to Krogstad. Krogstad writes the letter to Torvold and places it in the mailbox. However, he sees Christine, a former lover, in the house and agrees to help Nora by removing the letter. However, Christine asks that he keep the letter because Nora should face the consequences of her past. He agrees and Torvold later finds the letter. He approaches Nora and refuses to allow her to see the children or leave the house. However, she gives him her wedding ring back, packs her bags, and leaves, not wanting to be part of a relationship that is not based on trust or love.

The story of a controlling relationship in a time when women were thought to be weaker and in need of protection was beautifully performed. Theirs lacked everything from trust to compromise. Instead, Torvold acted as the only person that mattered in the relationship. Though his signs of car-

ing from calling her pet names and showing signs of affection first appeared sweet, it later became evident that he was merely trying to control her. But Nora's character also changed. At first, she appeared perky and snobby. She enjoyed spending money and wished for the Christmas tree ornaments to be money tied with ribbon. However, when she learned her relationship with her husband was to be in danger, she changed her outlook on the importance of money quickly changed to one in which she just wanted to be safe with her family than wealthy.

"They made the story come to life."

The play was well acted. They made the story come to life through their depiction of the characters. The subplots were made easy to understand by the actors. The best part of the play was the stage set itself, which was beautifully created to extend into the orchestra pit. This allowed the audience to feel as though they were "a fly on the wall," thus able to experience all the events that the family on the stage experienced.



The Perch features live comedy sketches sure to tickle your funny bone.

Faces in the Crowd

Todd Bokus: A 5'3" Sophomore Who Shows That Size Doesn't Really Matter

By Dustin Joyce
GRAPHICS EDITOR

"Some dream of success; others wake up and do it" is a quote Todd Bokus lives by. This popular sophomore has gotten involved and is actively working towards having a successful high school experience.

In school, "Maglotie", as his friends call him, works towards success in his advanced core classes. "He's really fun and adds to the class with his sense of humor," says Ms. Holm, Todd's English teacher. He also takes photography, Spanish II, food nutrition, and physical conditioning, which is his favorite.

He is also an avid sports fan. His height of 5'3" helps him be quick and agile on the soccer field, where he is a JV



In CD Player: Creed
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Food: Spaghetti
Best Movie: *The Rock*

and varsity player. In addition, he is a valued member of South Meck's wrestling team.

Outside of school he is involved in Young Life. He is a very active member, doing a lot of volunteer work. This past summer, he attended the Frontier Ranch, which is a Young Life camp in Colorado. Todd thinks, "Young Life is good because it's fun to go to and you learn about God."

He enjoys spending time with his friends, playing paintball, and camping. "I enjoy camping because it's a good time to get out with friends and just hang out."

"Plan for the future and what you want to do in life." Todd's experience has taught him that bit of advice. And he's someone who practices what he preaches.

THE SABRES' BLADE

Opinion Question

Y2K or Y2Care? What events or changes do you think will transpire in the up and coming millennium?

"I honestly have no idea, but I think that whatever happens will happen for the best. Why try to guess what will happen? I think we should stop trying so hard to predict what will happen and just let time take its course."

Anna Bovender
GRADE 11

"The First Trumpet."
Bryan McGee
GRADE 12

"I think there will be a lot of New Year's parties. Our technological capabilities will also become stronger in the millennium."

Brett Lenarcic
GRADE 10

"On New Years Eve, I plan to kiss Lindsay Buchert at the stroke of midnight!"

Clark Barrineau
GRADE 10

"I believe that mankind will continue to advance its knowledge and technology. Nothing truly significant will happen on January 1, 2000."

Brett Nicholson
GRADE 11

"It's all been blown out of proportion. I believe that nothing will happen, and that people are just using it as an excuse to party."

John Smith
GRADE 9

COMPILED BY
Jason Nark

Kenya Searcy: A Busy Junior Always Full of Smiles

Katy McClure
STAFF REPORTER

Junior Kenya Searcy is never without a smile on her face. Whether she's trying to master the steps of a dance or studying for classes; Kenya exudes happiness. Described by her friends as cheerful and bubbly, Kenya can always be called upon for a quick, "pick-me-up", if you are feeling down.

Kenya is active in several ways at South. During school hours, she stays busy with Spanish, AVID, and her favorite class, theater. "Drama gives me a good outlet for my emotions; it is a great release on those stressful days." Most days she can be found perfecting her complicated dance moves for Letter Girls. "Being a Letter Girl is a definitely a chal-



Favorite Clothing: Black Pants
Favorite Subject: Drama
In CD Player: Dru Hill
In Her Purse: Loose Change

lenge", she says. Kenya also serves as secretary for the women's service club S.O.S.

With all the responsibilities she has, she keeps herself grounded by focusing on her goal of attending the University of Georgia and becoming a pediatrician. Kenya is also extremely involved with outside service activities. She is a volunteer at The Relatives and Jack and Jill, both of which provide the community with important services.

Aside from school activities Kenya also enjoys swimming on her neighborhood swim team dancing, and playing the piano. She has been to several countries including Spain, France, and Hong Kong. She takes Spanish here at South in order to communicate when she travels.

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Playoffs Should Be Used Instead of BCS

It is December, and that means only two things: the holidays and college football bowl games. This year there once again comes the controversy of deciding who should be named the national champions. The Bowl Championship Series is a rating that was adopted last year in order to match up the two best teams in the national championship game and is computed by adding four components: the AP and ESPN poll

**Alexi
NEILL**

Sports Commentary

average, a computer average, strength of schedule, and losses. I believe that the BCS does not work, however, because there are a few problems with it.

First of all, there is a possibility that three or four teams could go undefeated but the BCS only matches up two teams against each other in the championship game. Second, I believe that the BCS does not place enough emphasis on strength of schedule. It is very tough for a Big-10 or SEC team to go unbeaten throughout the entire season because their conferences are so competitive, while teams like Virginia Tech and Kansas State can breeze through their cupcake schedule. This is evident so far this year because Nebraska has lost one game to a difficult opponent, yet they are still behind Virginia Tech who has not played a tough team the entire year.

There is one simple yet somehow extremely complex solution to this situation. If you think about it, every other major sport has some sort of playoff to determine the national championship. Develop a tournament similar to the NCAA basketball tournament by taking the top 8 teams in the BCS. This way, any undefeated teams that are flukes will be knocked out to tougher teams with only one loss.

A few problems may arise with this new system but I can answer them all. You may think that it takes away from tradition of bowl games but there will still be all of the other bowl games as usual. If necessary, the losers from the tournament can fill in the other major bowl games that were lost in the tournament and a new bowl game can be made specifically for the championship game. This way, no revenue would be lost from the major bowl games. There is also a huge time gap, almost a month, between the national championship game and the last regular season game. The tournament would bridge this gap because it would take at least 3 weeks to play it. This is the only fair solution for solving the BCS problem.

SABRE SOCCER FALLS SHORT

By Laura King
STAFF REPORTER

At the conclusion of the fall 1999 season, the men's varsity soccer team here at South boasted an impressive record of 14 wins, six losses and two ties. They finished fourth in the Southwestern 4A Conference trailing powers Myers Park, Providence, and East Meck.

The Sabres posted an amazing goal ratio of four to one, having scored 103 goals in 22 games. In addition, junior goalkeeper Philip Trotter earned 10 shut-outs for South. The Sabres' defense was also responsible for the low scoring of opponents, and was consistently led by senior Scott Andrews and junior sweeper Charlie Everett. Senior Mike Benfield led the team in scoring with 21 goals. Furthermore, senior Chris Wyer led South as well as the entire city in assists with 29. The Sabres played well throughout the year, and several of their losses were decided by a slim margin of one or two goals.

Regardless of the talent on the team, the Sabres did not receive a berth in the state playoffs. This was unusual considering some of their accomplishments throughout the season: South beat the first and second place teams from the Mega 74A Conference. In addition, they



Julia Flumian/Staff Photographer

defeated East Meck on October 21, the team that finished just ahead of them in the conference and therefore claimed the third and final playoff spot. Overall, South defeated seven or eight teams in the regular season that went on to compete in the state playoffs. Although he is disappointed in the final results, Coach Lynch is not disappointed with the effort his team displayed throughout the season. "I was proud of our consistent effort and composure, and I think that was a tribute to our outstanding senior leadership."

Several of the seniors on the squad plan to continue their careers at the college level. Jeff

Tate, a solid performer at the forward and midfield positions, will probably play at Lees-McRae College, and Chris Wyer will most likely play at Hampton-Sydney. Seniors Scott Whelchel and Scott Andrews are undecided regarding their future plans. Despite the loss of these team leaders, Coach Lynch remains optimistic about the fall 2000 season. He notes that six or seven starters are underclassmen, among them future leaders Charlie Everett, Philip Trotter and Philip Crigler. Expect the 2000 Sabres to not only match the success of this season, but to surpass it and grab the spot in the state playoffs that they earned this year.

Sabre Tennis Caps Another Successful Season

By Neil Smith
and Alexi Neill
STAFF REPORTERS

The 1999 women's tennis team turned in another successful season, finishing third in their conference again. The team was led by senior Becky Orr and junior Ellen Abbott. In addition to Ellen and Becky; Eleanor Martin, Meredith

Doughton, Kelly Ewing, Rachel Darling, and Sally Gee were also integral singles players.

The highlight of the season was a 5-4 win over East Mecklenburg that secured the team's third place conference finish. This match lasted over 5 hours and was so long that it had to be moved from South to the Park Crossing tennis courts where the game could be com-

pleted under the lights. This win allowed the team to compete in states for the second year in a row because the top 3 teams in the conference move on to states. At states, the team played a tough match but in the end wound up on the losing side against Freedom. Ellen Abbott was also able to qualify for states individually after she got runner-up in the conference tournament. Impressively, this was her third consecutive year making it to the state tournament and she still has another year to go.

The team lost their head coach from last year, Coach Art Abbott, but it did not effect the team much because they once again made it to the state tournament. Coach Weaver is the new head coach for the girls and he brings experience to the table. He has coached the boy's tennis team for 6 years now at South and has played tennis himself for numerous years. "I didn't know what I was getting into when I came in but the girls worked hard and were able to obtain their goal of making states" said coach Weaver about the season.

The team had a great season this year but should have an even better one next year. The team is losing only one player from their top 6 and next year they will have more experience.

Becky Orr concentrates on her next shot.

yearbook photographer



Sabre Cross- Country Season One of the Best Ever

By John Lakas
SPORTS CO-EDITOR

If the boy's cross-country team's season were to be described in one word it would be: Amazing! The team accomplished what was expected of them plus a whole lot more.

The Sabres started their season unofficially June 1 and it ran all the way to November 13. During this time the team worked hard every day to be successful. It took some time and patience but the effort eventually paid off.

The Sabres first major victory came at the Wendy's Invitational meet in October. At the meet six of the seven varsity members ran personal bests, including Alexi Neill breaking the school record. The highlight of the meet came when South Meck was announced the winner of the open championship.

The biggest victory of the season came at the SW 4A Conference meet. There the Sabres captured their second straight conference title. The team was led by Alexi Neill, John Lakas, Brendan Muhugh, and Adam Slawter, all of whom received All-Conference honors. Chris Gordon and Derek Smit's performances proved every runner counts, because without them South would have lost the meet. Brian Zelk also received the Coach of the Year award for the second year in a row.

The team's next major accomplishment came at the Regional meet. The men took third place in the meet, making them the first team in 27 years to qualify for the state meet. The explosive performance of varsity runner Worth St. George was integral to the team's success that day. In the Regional B meet, sophomore Heath Spivey lead the way by taking first place. Followed by solid performances of Jason Nark and Matt Morse. Seniors Neil Smith and Matt Fay both concluded their South cross-country careers with a good race.

Going into the state meet the Sabres were ranked fourth in the state. The team was ready to go out and prove they were one of the best teams in the state. The team did not run as well as they were expected that day but they did finish 9th place in the state. Best of all they beat Providence proving to them and everyone else South was the stronger team. "I felt like the State meet defined our season. No, it wasn't our best performance but all the hard work we put in got us there to show we were one of the best teams in the state," said coach Brian Zelk.

Hornets
Should
Contend in
'99-00

By Joon Lee
STAFF REPORTER

With the 1999-2000 NBA season just started, it looks as if the Charlotte Hornets are finally ready to contend for a championship. According to New York Knicks head coach Jeff Van Gundy, the Hornets' "have the most talent in the East."

This season, the Hornets roster consists of a great mix of talent, depth, and versatility. Eddie Jones is the go-to guy on the offense, as he has averaged 23.9 points so far, and he is also the defensive stopper, counted on to shut down the opposing teams' offensive star. Bobby Phills and Anthony Mason provide the versatility, as both can play multiple positions and Mason is arguably the best passing big man in the league. Elden Campbell anchors the middle, and after years of underachievement and disappointment as Shaquille O'Neal's understudy, Campbell is now the number one option in the post, which is a position that suits him just fine. Running the show is David Wesley. Coming into the season, many felt that Wesley was the weak link of the Hornets, and that it would only be a matter of time before first round pick Baron Davis stepped in to take his place. Wesley proved all the nay-sayers wrong by being one of the most consistent players on the team, and his playmaking ability improves every game. Davis provides depth at the point, while Derrick Coleman, Todd Fuller, and Brad Miller are big bodies that coach Paul Silas can use off the bench. Another Davis, Ricky, is sidelined with an injury for now, but when healthy, he can play two positions and bring spark off the bench.

The Hornets are not without competition. There are the defending Eastern Conference champions, the New York Knicks, who return their whole lineup and a new acquisition, John Wallace. The Knicks are without their starting center, Patrick Ewing, until January, but they should be able to hang in there with Marcus Camby filling in. The Miami Heat are also a tough opponent, and they have opened up their offense more to accommodate the rule changes. It is not just a dump-it-in to Alonzo Mourning game plan, and the Heat look like they are actually playing basketball instead of football.

Although the East has respectable teams, all the power lies in the West. The West has arguably the best talent and the Portland Trailblazers are virtually stacked with the likes of Scottie Pippen, Steve Smith, Rasheed Wallace, Detlef Schrempf, Damon Stoudmaire, and more. For the Hornets to contend, they will have to play near-flawless basketball and not have any breakdowns throughout the stretch of the season.

Fall Outstanding Athletes

As we conclude another Fall sports season, *The Sabres' Blade* would like to highlight seniors who excel in their sport. Oftentimes student athletes at South Meck do not get the recognition they deserve. Unless you are a phenomenal athlete with major universities recruiting you, your efforts outside the classroom have probably been ignored. This is why *The Sabres' Blade* decided to choose one outstanding senior from every fall sport. The selection criteria was based on achievements, work ethic and character.

By JOHN LAKAS | SPORTS CO-EDITOR

<p>CROSS-COUNTRY Alexi Neill</p> <p>He has lettered all four years he has run cross-country. Alexi has earned All-Conference titles back to back and this year achieved All-Region status. He broke the school record with a sensational time of 16:10. Alexi helped lead his team to two SW4A Conference titles, something that has not been accomplished since the early 1970s. Alexi's accomplishments have proven that hard work and dedication will eventually pay-off.</p>	<p>VOLLEYBALL Joy Hughes</p> <p>Joy has played volleyball for three years at South and has lettered two of those years. She was a consistent player and was known as the defensive specialist by teammates. Joy helped her team to a third place finish in the conference. She is proud of her team beating Providence, something that hasn't been achieved in four years. "Joy was a great team player and her defensive skills were one of the best in the league," said Denise Huntley.</p>	<p>FOOTBALL Brian Shiels</p> <p>He is often overlooked as a dominant lineman because of his size, even though he started the whole year at center after a season ending injury last fall. "Brian shows that he is a team leader on and off the field. He never gives anything less than 110% at practice and always has a positive attitude," said teammate David Bohn. Brian is not only successful on the football field but also in the classroom; he holds the highest GPA on the team.</p>
<p>SOCCER Chris Wyr</p> <p>Chris has played soccer at South for all four years. He has been a varsity letter recipient for three straight years. This year Chris shared the title as captain and led the conference with thirty total assists, plus scoring eleven goals for the season. "He was a clutch player in the big games and he never let the team down," said Coach Jim Lynch.</p>	<p>TENNIS Becky Orr</p> <p>Becky has played tennis at South for all four years. Her senior year she was a Co-captain and was seeded number three on the team. She was awarded the title of Most Improved her junior year. "Becky is an all-around athlete. Her leadership and dedication make her a great model for the underclassmen," said teammate Kelly Ewing.</p>	<p>CROSS-COUNTRY Lindsay Wilson</p> <p>This year was Lindsay's first year running cross-country but it was probably one of the best ever by a first year runner. She earned All-Conference honors and she helped lead her team to a third place finish in the conference. Lindsay barely missed qualifying for the state meet by a fraction of a second in the regional meet. "Lindsay contributed a lot to our team's success, and always had a way to cheer the team up," said Maggie Kao.</p>

Congratulations!

Memory of
Payne
Stewart
Lives On

Think of golf. No, Wait. To be more specific. Think about the recent US Open. If you are a golf fan of any sort, the name that will come to mind will be Payne Stewart.

William Payne Stewart was one of the most distinguishable golfers on the PGA Tour, as his knickers would well attest. He seemed to be enjoying one of his best years of golf until a fatal plane crash took his life and several others. He was 42 years old.

Joon
LEE
Sports Commentary


Yet, it seems as much as people want to think of Payne Stewart the golfer, I would like to think of Payne Stewart the person.

Stewart's talent was never a question. He won three major championships (PGA Championship in 1989, US Open in 1991 and 1999) and was a member of many Ryder Cup teams. However, his demeanor off the course was somewhat unsettling, as he was deemed as an arrogant being who epitomized the typical American athlete - rich, spoiled, and picky. After his PGA Championship victory in '89, he was said to be reveling in his opponents demise and hewas very harsh with the media. "Iblew off the media so many times that I can't even keep track anymore," said Stewart. Well, that took a turn for the better.

In 1998, Stewart lost the US Open at the Olympic Club in San Francisco to Lee Janzen; a tournament which he had led by four strokes going into the final round. However, I believe this loss was the best thing that could have happened to him and it left a lasting mark on his legacy. During the press conference after the tournament, he answered every question that was thrown at him and he answered them with patience, not blaming anyone else but himself for the loss. He had a new found inner peace with God and he was not going to let one loss deter him.

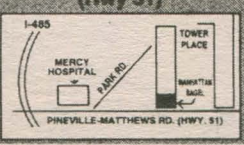
Then came the image that will always resonate with us when thinking of Payne Stewart. This was after he won the '99 US Open in Pinehurst, NC in amazing fashion. Stewart had to save par on 18 to win and he did, sinking an incredible 15 foot putt. After the putt went in, he gave a fist pump for the ages and he was jumping around the green like an innocent young child getting his first birthday present. It was truly a sight to remember and it seems unfair for Stewart to leave us at such an early age, but it happened and he was gracious enough to leave us with a good memory of him.


Wherever you are Payne Stewart, may your soul rest in peace.




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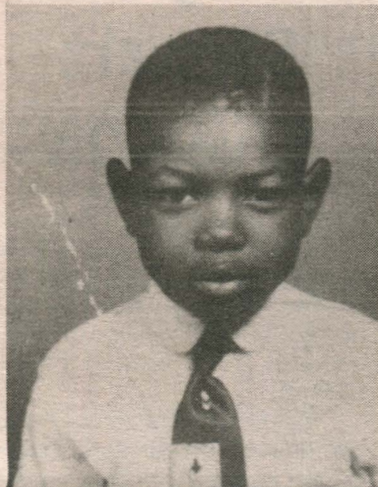
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Teacher Mysteries



By Stefanie Trotta
STAFF REPORTER

You don't have to worry about missing this guidance counselor around campus, for he claims "With seniors you have to be here every day, all the time." This 16-year veteran of South attended North Carolina A&T in Greensboro. Still stumped? He had this to say about himself: "Most importantly over the years I've learned that money doesn't make you happy. Happiness comes from first God, second a loving family, and third true friends." He is known for his highly appreciated job of issuing early-release passes and helping students get into college. If you haven't figured it out, check page 3 for the answer.



By Larisa Yasinovskaya
BUSINESS MANAGER

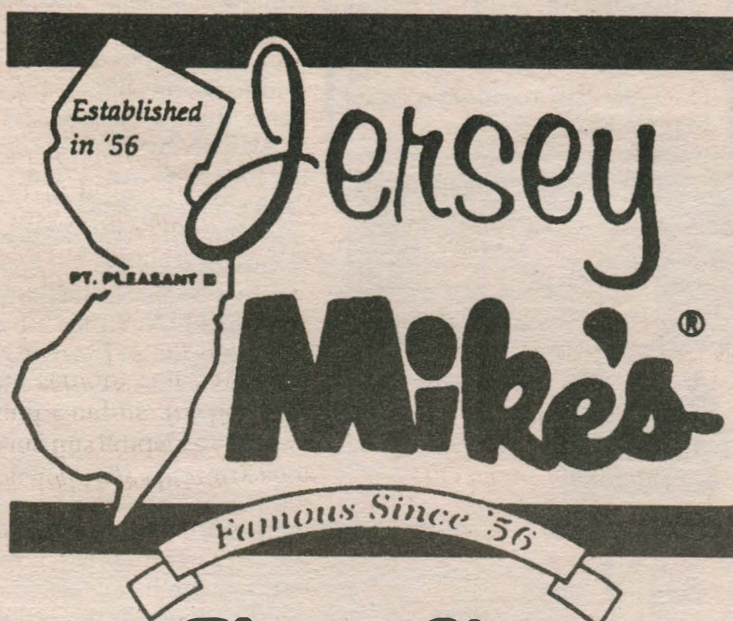
This blond math teacher is well known for her perpetual school spirit. She teaches AP statistics and Algebra II Advanced, and is also the BETA club advisor. Because of her impeccable taste she is considered by many to be one of the best dressed teachers in school. She drives a red Durango, her favorite color. She also has two kids, one in the eighth grade and another in the second. She came to Charlotte from Charleston, SC, where she got her masters at the Citadel. This teacher admits to liking her students and actually enjoying her job. Still can't figure it out? Then turn to page 3 for the answer.

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